

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4. (Canceled)

5. (New) A valve mechanism to be attached to a tightly closed bag for holding its contents by keeping the contents from the ambient air and adapted to open for evacuating air from the tightly closed bag and close for stopping such evacuation, the valve mechanism comprising: a suction connector mounted on the outer surface of a tightly closed bag having a hole formed therein, the suction connector having a vent formed in its center and being so shaped as not to form any projection on the outer side of the tightly closed bag; a valve base mounted on the inner surface of the tightly closed bag and having a recessed shape in cross-section, a suction opening formed in its center as viewed in top plan and an edge portion adapted to be joined to the suction connector with the tightly closed bag held therebetween; and a valve body facing the suction opening within the valve base and adapted to open the suction opening upon suction through the vent and close it upon stoppage of the suction.

6. (New) The valve mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the valve base has a ring member of an elastic material attached integrally to it, and the suction connector has a

concavity formed in its portion corresponding in position to the ring member on the valve base.

7. **(New)** The valve mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the valve base has ridges formed on the opposite side thereof from the suction connector and extending from the periphery of a suction opening.

8. **(New)** The valve mechanism according to claim 6, wherein the valve base has ridges formed on the opposite side thereof from the suction connector and extending from the periphery of a suction opening.

9. **(New)** The valve mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the suction connector further comprises load restraining means provided around its vent for restraining the load of the suction device used for discharging air from the tightly closed bag.

10. **(New)** The valve mechanism according to claim 6, wherein the suction connector further comprises load restraining means provided around its vent for restraining the load of the suction device used for discharging air from the tightly closed bag.

11. **(New)** The valve mechanism according to claim 7, wherein the suction connector further comprises load restraining means provided around its vent for restraining the load of the suction device used for discharging air from the tightly closed bag.

12. **(New)** The valve mechanism according to claim 8, wherein the suction connector further comprises load restraining means provided around its vent for restraining the load of the suction device used for discharging air from the tightly closed bag.

13. **(New)** The valve mechanism according to claim 6, wherein the ring member is dementioned to fit into the concavity with a portion of the bag around the periphery of an opening in one wall retained in air-tight relation therebetween.

14. **(New)** The valve mechanism according to claim 7, wherein the ring member is dementioned to fit into the concavity with a portion of the bag around the periphery of an opening in one wall retained in air-tight relation therebetween.

15. **(New)** The valve mechanism according to claim 9, wherein the ring member is dementioned to fit into the concavity with a portion of the bag around the periphery of an opening in one wall retained in air-tight relation therebetween.